



BASELINE REPORT

Youth Radio for Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste

A project to be implemented by

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in Timor-Leste

With support from the

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

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I. Executive Summary

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in Timor-Leste recently begun the implementation of a 24-month project entitled *Youth Radio for Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste* (RFP-TL), whose overall goal is to transform the way in which Timorese youth deal with conflict, away from adversarial approaches toward cooperative solutions. The project's centerpiece will be a radio program to be aired on 15 community radio stations, one university radio station, and the largest public radio station in the country (Radio Timor-Leste), across all 13 districts in the country.

The baseline study presents the measurement of project indicators prior to the start of activities. It was conducted internally and in line with SFCG's previous experiences in implementing and adapting the Radio for Peacebuilding methodology, first in Africa and subsequently in both Nepal and Indonesia. The baseline methodology, described in Section II, builds on these previous experiences, while taking into consideration Timor-Leste's particular aspects and challenges. The country is presently in an unstable peace with many grievances unaddressed, and reconciliation is still an unachieved goal. Weak institutional mechanisms have failed to adequately address issues important to youth, or contain violence, preventing the state from effectively resolving conflicts. Since independence, civil society has witnessed only slow, measured growth and a rise in disaffected local groups. On the media side, the dearth and weak transfer of information from Dili to the districts regarding current events and information about return and reintegration has caused great frustration at the local level, increasing misperceptions and creating feelings of exclusion.

The baseline presents results and findings within a broad frame of analysis, which has been developed to reflect how the RFP-TL project intends to create change among three separate but related axes: 1) between communities and community radios (CRs); 2) between CRs and young people; and 3) between young people and their communities. In regards to these axes, the baseline study thus draws the following conclusions:

- Overall, the link between community representatives and CRs is **present, but weak** – Nearly all Suco Council members and young people interviewed indicated that they have listened to their local community radio station. Nevertheless, the strength of this axis is limited by a number of factors. First and foremost is the fact that communities' reception of CRs' signals is sometimes poor and often irregular. Coupled with the limited duration of radio's broadcasts (an average of 7.2 hours per day, with a minimum of 2.5), this means that many community members do not listen to CRs regularly, or at all.
- The link between CRs and young people is undoubtedly the **weakest, and sometimes absent** – Young people are aware of the existence of community radio stations, and have indicated that they sometimes listen to them—but not regularly. Group discussions further suggest that

listening habits among young people are significantly more susceptible to content and format. In addition, whereas community leaders mentioned some, albeit limited, level of collaboration with CRs, no such instances were found in the case of young people.

- The link between young people and communities is **present yet superficial** – Community leaders interviewed appeared to have a good understanding of the needs of young people. Suco Councils include two Youth Representatives, whose mandate is to liaise with young people and develop opportunities for their involvement in community life. How much young people can participate and influence decision-making processes is, however, an open question. Just as importantly, the capacity of young people to organize themselves appears to be low.

The aforementioned conclusions are based on the measurement of individual project indicators, which are also presented and explained in Section IV. A summary table of the quantitative measurements of indicators is included as Annex A.

Finally, the report concludes with several recommendations in regards to future Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) efforts, including:

- Establish a quarterly data collection cycle – Information concerning the progress of the RFP-TL project at the outcome level should be collected and compiled every three months.
- Form a ‘reference’ group of beneficiaries – In order to avoid the risk of passive group discussions, SFCG-TL should form a ‘reference’ group of beneficiaries.
- Organize smaller and single-gender FGDs – Regular FGDs should still be conducted as part of the regular data collection cycle.
- Conduct ‘spot’ surveys – In order to collect useful quantitative information, it would be important to conduct surveys.
- Revisit project indicators at mid-term point – The baseline has revealed differences in the usefulness and accuracy of current indicators, which is fairly typical in the case of projects taking place in fragile and politically volatile contexts.

II. Baseline Methodology

The Radio for Peace Building Timor-Leste (RFP-TL) project represents both a continuation of past efforts by SFCG as well as a new challenge. SFCG first pioneered the RFP approach in Africa, where the Radio for Peacebuilding Africa project was launched in 2004 and completed in 2006 (the website created through this initiative is still operational¹). Subsequently, the approach was successfully replicated in both Nepal, where it is at the core of SFCG's programs and, most recently, in Indonesia, as the Aceh Youth Radio for Peacebuilding project. Previous experiences with the RFP model have allowed SFCG to rely on existing tools and resources for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

At the same time, setting up a RFP program in Timor-Leste presents a new opportunity, and with it a set of new challenges. To begin with, the RFP methodology will have to be adapted to match the attitudes and level of skills and capacities of Timorese media professionals. Materials will have to be translated into Tetum, and programming will likely have to account for other local languages. Finally, RFP-TL will have a national scope, requiring the baseline as well as subsequent M&E efforts to be built so as to effectively capture nation-wide trends and changes.

Baseline Tools

In light of the above, and in an attempt to produce the most accurate and useful baseline study possible, the following tools were used as part of the chosen methodology:

- *Desk review* – Existing studies, reports and surveys on media development and peacebuilding in Timor-Leste were reviewed in order to obtain data and information relevant to the RFP-TL project. In particular, the following resources proved particularly useful:
 - *Timor-Leste National Media Survey*, Soares E. and Graham Mytton (Hirondelle Foundation, May 2007),
 - *Timor-Leste's Youth in Crisis: Situational Analysis and Policy Options* (World Bank, Sep 2007),
 - *Media Sustainability Index 2008* (IREX, 2009),
 - *Timor-Leste: No Time for Complacency*, Update Briefing No. 87 (ICG, Feb 2009),
 - *Electoral Violence in Timor-Leste*, Issue Brief 3/2009 (TLAVA, Jun 2009),
 - *Community Radio Stations Assessment* (ICF), forthcoming).

Other reports from the International Crisis Group (ICG), the Timor-Leste Armed Violence Assessment (TLAVA) and the United Nations (UN) were also reviewed.

¹ <http://www.radiopeaceafrica.org/index.cfm?lang=en>

- *Key Informant Interviews (KII)* – Interviews were held with Suco Council members in selected locations across the country. These individuals were identified as key project stakeholders, representing the official view and expectations of targeted communities. Six such meetings were organized, totaling 10 people, both in urban as well as rural areas. For a full list of meetings please see Annex C.
- *Questionnaire for Community Radios (CRs)* – A questionnaire was developed to assess the status of CRs prior to the start of activities, so as to be able to evaluate eventual improvements in their capacity and programming in the future. The questionnaire covered technical aspects (hours of broadcast per day, existing equipment and staff) and also radio personnel’s perceptions about current needs and future expectations. Respondents included eight CRs, representing just over half of all the CRs to be engaged in the RFP-TL project, as well as the Dili-based National University Radio. The questionnaire is attached as Annex D.
- *Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)* – In order to collect qualitative information, several FGDs were organized with young people in Baucau, Dili and Viqueque.

The following table summarizes the size and variety of the sample of respondents:

Tool	No. and Type of Respondents/ Participants	Location	Gender breakdown
Key Informant Interviews	9 (Suco Council Presidents and Members including Youth Representatives)	Manatuto, Caisido (Baucau), Uma Ki’k and Carabalo (Viqueque), Ermera	9 M/0 F
Questionnaire	9 (CR Managers and Directors)	Manatuto, Bucoli (Baucau), Baucau, Viqueque, Gleno (Ermera), Liquica, Dili	8 M/1 F
FGD	36 (Young people, average age: 22 years)	Baucau, Viqueque, Dili	22 M/ 14 F

Challenges

Logistics

The baseline was conducted at a time when the resources of SFCG’s office in Dili were still not entirely in place. Specifically, the office did not have a vehicle at the time of the consultant’s visit and several key staff members had not yet been recruited. For the field visit, assistance was provided by SFCG local partners BELUN and the Timor-Leste Media Development Center (TLMDC).

The lack of resources did not compromise the overall quality of the information collected. However, it made it impossible to adopt a more quantitative approach to the baseline—specifically, the possibility of running a survey.

Meeting Fatigue

An unforeseen challenge during the baseline came from the group discussions. Specifically, many of the participants displayed passive attitudes to the questions specifically and the event generally. Many of them indicated that they had participated in similar meetings in the past, and quite a few voiced some disillusion with the process. The same attitude was seen in meetings with community leaders.

Timor-Leste has seen a lot of development activities since independence, making it very likely that people have previously participated in interviews and group discussions. This in and by itself need not be a concern. However, when this phenomenon affects how participants respond to key questions, then the risk is of obtaining information of little value. A particular effort should be made in the future to ensure that the best possible information is collected from program participants and beneficiaries—a list of recommendations to this effect is included in Section V.

Gender Considerations

The gender breakdown of the baseline sample is heavily dominated by men (72%). Out of 17 community leaders and radio personnel, only one was a woman (6%). While these percentages might be slightly inflated on account of logistical choices, they nevertheless paint a picture of a heavily male-dominated society, a view consistent with other studies specific to Timor-Leste. This factor must be seen as influencing the type of responses obtained, and therefore taken into account when implementing future monitoring and evaluation efforts.

III. Project and Country Overview

Project Overview

Search for Common Ground (SFCG) in Timor-Leste will implement a 24-month project entitled *Youth Radio for Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste* (RFP-TL). The project began on April 1st, 2010, and will conclude on March 31st, 2012; it is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The RFP-TL project has the overall goal of transforming the way in which youth in Timor-Leste deal with conflict, away from adversarial approaches toward cooperative solutions. The project's centerpiece will be a radio program to be aired on 15 community radio stations, one university radio station, and the largest public radio station in the country (Radio Timor-Leste), across all 13 districts in the country. The project's specific objectives are:

1. To establish a platform/mechanism for youth across Timor-Leste to explore issues affecting Timorese youth, reconciliation, and conflict transformation in a constructive, solutions-oriented way;

2. To enhance the capacity and sustainability of Timorese civil society (particularly media) to play a more active role in reconciliation and peacebuilding processes, and to manage these functions in the long-term, without external assistance;
3. To increase community members' understanding of issues of importance to youth in order to bolster mechanisms that foster greater collaboration between youth and their community.

In order to achieve the aforementioned objectives, the project expects to produce a series of outcomes over the next two years, including: an increase in conflict resolution and prevention activities by young people; the breakdown of stereotypes and greater collaboration across dividing lines; greater participation of young people to Timor-Leste's peace and reconciliation efforts; and finally, greater awareness among Timorese in general about the positive role young people can play in the country's future.

Three types of activities are envisioned as part of the RFP-TL project:

1. Development of Radio for Peacebuilding Resources

SFCG will develop a guidebook (in Tetum) on Radio for Peacebuilding in Timor-Leste, which will be used to assist radio presenters and members of the community radio network. The RFP "user manual" will serve as a tool for media professionals to better utilize radio and to guide their facilitation of group discussions and community dialogue. In collaboration with TLMDC, SFCG will also establish a Youth Radio Laboratory to facilitate production of radio programming. The media center for youth will encourage participation in shared learning on radio broadcasting, journalism, production, and management.

2. Youth Forums and Trainings

SFCG will convene two fora for youth leaders from across Timor-Leste. The issues discussed and feedback from the youth fora will provide the youth reporters and radio presenters with relevant material for the radio programs. In addition, the fora will provide youth with the opportunity to develop strong networks as a means to coordinate around issues affecting youth.

Approximately 35 youth between the ages of 15-25 years will be given a comprehensive training in 'Common Ground' radio techniques to serve as reporters and radio presenters in community radio stations across Timor-Leste.

3. Radio Production and Broadcast

Once trained, youth reporters will be responsible for producing raw audio feeds for the radio magazines, which will be edited and produced by SFCG and TLMDC in Dili. These radio magazine shows will be broadcast on community radio stations across Timor-Leste, as well as RTL. Every week, following the broadcast of the radio magazine, the partner radio stations will also host an additional hour-long, live component of the program. This will consist of a variety of interactive radio formats, including talkback radio and quizzes.

In the second year of the program, SFCG will work with youth reporters and radio presenters to produce a weekly radio drama focused on issues of youth, reconciliation, and peacebuilding. These outputs will evolve throughout the life of the program, as youth reporters and producers gain new skills and technical knowledge to produce radio drama episodes at the youth radio laboratory.

Country Overview

The RFP-TL project was developed to give a voice to youth in order to address grievances concerning critical gaps in the development of Timor-Leste. Soaring youth unemployment, a staggeringly high birth rate, an abysmally low Human Development Index (162 out of 177 countries), and demographic changes due both to previous rural-urban migration and high internal displacement have become threats to Timor-Leste's stability. Frustration with the lack of economic opportunities, coupled with feelings of disenfranchisement, result in tensions and a higher likelihood of violent conflict, particularly for youth.

Much was expected of the country's development following independence in 2002, but that hope is now waning. Presently Timor-Leste is in an unstable peace with many grievances unaddressed, and reconciliation is still an unachieved goal. Weak institutional mechanisms have failed to adequately address issues important to youth, or contain violence, preventing the state from effectively resolving conflicts. In order for youth to feel like they can generate positive change in their nation's future, they must have access to institutional mechanisms and public forums to voice their perspectives on the common future of Timor-Leste.

Parallel to the fragility of the state, civil society has witnessed only slow, measured growth and a rise in disaffected local groups. Youth in particular struggle with the challenges of disillusionment, abject poverty, recurring food and water insecurity, property disputes, and lingering political discord. When young people grow up in unstable societies and lack economic prospects, or basic material and physical security, they often turn away from state or traditional authority and look to mobilize in search of solutions.² An example of this trend has been the rising membership of martial arts groups (MAGs). These groups have grown significantly in reach and influence in recent years; today there are 20,000 registered members – and probably at least as many unregistered ones – with influence in all 13 districts.³

An additional challenge to civil society has been the media's inadequate infrastructure and capacity, making accurate transfers of information particularly difficult. Rumor management is an acute challenge, particularly in times of crisis, and this has been intensified by the current assault on press

² "Youth and Conflict: A Toolkit", Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), April 2005.

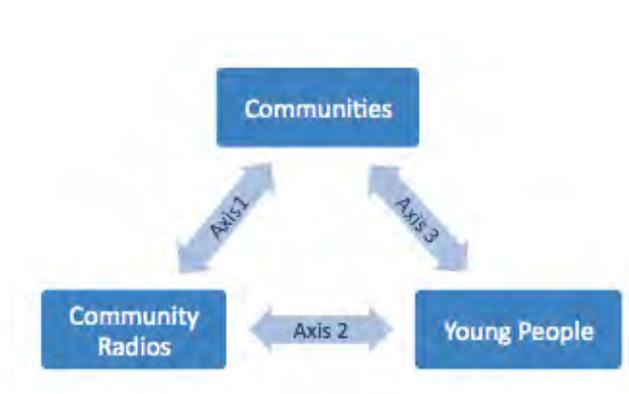
³ "Groups, gangs, and armed violence in Timor-Leste." Timor-Leste Armed Violence Assessment (TLAVA), Issue Brief Number 2, April 2009.

freedoms; the number of journalists in the country has dropped to just 150.⁴ The dearth and weak transfer of information from Dili to the districts regarding current events and information about return and reintegration has caused great frustration at the local level, increasing misperceptions and creating feelings of exclusion. It has been difficult to balance the influence of the legislature, executive, and judiciary when the fourth democratic pillar, the press (or media), is unsteady. Overall, the reach of radio and other media in Timor-Leste continues to be very limited and weak.

IV. State of Indicators

General Overview

The RFP-TL project intends to create change among three separate but related axes, as shown in the figure below: 1) between communities and community radios (CRs); 2) between CRs and young people; and 3) between young people and their communities. The decision to focus on these three target groups was made on the basis of the analysis SFCG conducted during the project design phase and is consistent with the theories of change which the RFP-TL intervention is built upon.



This scheme constitutes a useful analytical framework to monitor and evaluate the future progress of the RFP-TL project, its effectiveness and, eventually, its impact. The framework does not replace the project indicators, but rather builds on them by offering the possibility for a more narrative and qualitative assessment of the project's

achievements—throughout and beyond its implementation. With this in mind, this sub-section seeks to present the baseline findings in accordance with this framework; the state and measurement of project indicators follows in the next sub-section.

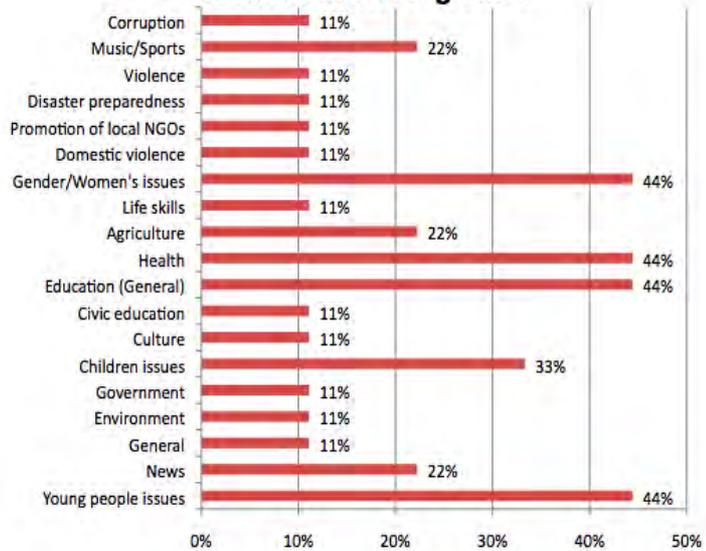
1) *Communities – Community Radios (CRs)*

Overall, the link between community representatives and CRs is **present, but weak**.

⁴ “East Timor turns 7 but press freedom in peril,” *Manila Times*, 20 May 2009.

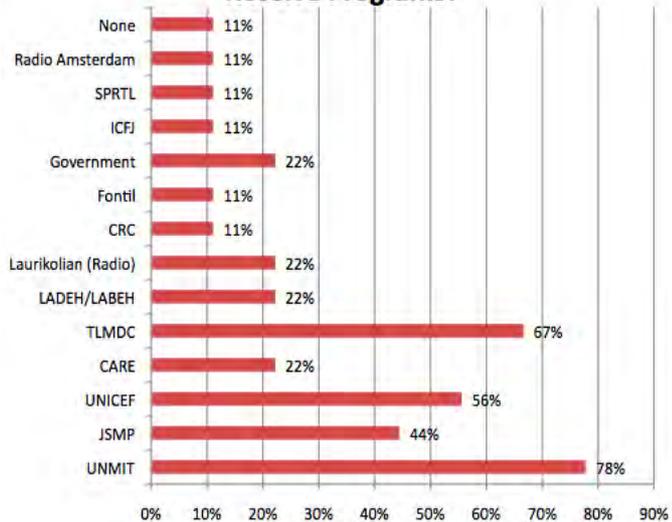
Nearly all Suco Council members and young people interviewed indicated that they have listened to their local community radio station; there is also evidence that some of the programs produced and broadcast by CRs are very popular, such as “Voice of Baikeno”, which is produced by the CR in Oecusse and discusses community issues by interviewing regular people. The topics most often discussed—health and education—are also recognized as some of the most important by community leaders. Table 1 shows how nearly half of all CRs (44%) cover those two topics. Furthermore, interviews with Suco Council members suggest that communities appreciate programs that are more interactive in nature, such as those featuring interviews and *vox populi*, which a few CRs offer as part of their regular programming. Finally, there seems to be some collaboration between CRs and members of their communities, including Suco Councils and, less frequently, local associations.

Table 1: What Are the Main Topics Discussed in CR Programs?



Nevertheless, the strength of this axis is limited by a number of factors. First and foremost is the fact that communities’ reception of CRs’ signals is sometimes poor and often irregular. Coupled with the limited duration of radio’s broadcasts (an average of 7.2 hours per day, with a minimum of 2.5), this means that many community members do not listen to CRs. Information from the

Table 2: From What Agencies Do CRs Receive Programs?



2007 *National Media Survey* points to an average listenership rate just above 5%. In addition, most of the programs broadcast by CRs are produced by external, often international, agencies, as shown in Table 2. These programs are not produced locally and often do not take into account the specific

needs or situation of local communities, which might explain the great variety of topics discussed by CRs (see Table 1).

2) *Community Radios (CRs) – Young People*

The link between CRs and young people is undoubtedly the **weakest, and sometimes absent**.

Young people are aware of the existence of community radio stations, and have indicated that they sometimes listen to them—but not regularly. Group discussions further suggest that listening habits among young people are significantly more susceptible to content and format (whereas adults might listen more as a regular activity dependent on work and/or family commitments). Young people appeared to remember more easily interactive programs that allow them, for example, to select songs via text messages, or to call in on the show. It is worth noting that all these programs belong to Radio Timor-Leste (RTL), while there was no recognition or recollection of specific CR programs by the young people interviewed. On the content side, it has been more difficult to assess what issues young people are most interested in; the more often cited are music and sports, followed by culture and arts (poetry in particular). Development and community affairs have also been mentioned, but in rather generic terms (as a need for unspecified “life skills”) and to a lesser extent. Finally, whereas community leaders mentioned some, albeit limited, level of collaboration with CRs, no such instances were found in the case of young people.

3) *Young People – Communities*

The link between young people and communities is **present yet superficial**. Furthermore, it may vary depending on the type of young people—i.e. the more at-risk young people are, the more disenfranchised and marginalized they might feel.⁵

Community leaders interviewed appeared to have a good understanding of the needs of young people. Suco Councils include two Youth Representatives, whose mandate is to liaise with young people and develop opportunities for their involvement in community life. This system allows young people to play positive roles, specifically in the organization of public events like sports tournaments and/or music festivals, which several of the interviewees mentioned as good examples of collaboration between young people and communities.

How much young people can participate and influence decision-making processes is, however, an open question. Just as importantly, the capacity of young people to organize themselves appears to be low. Interviewees mentioned two institutions entrusted with a mandate to represent young

⁵ This is a conclusion from the *Timor-Leste's Youth in Crisis Report* (World Bank, Sep 2007). For the present baseline, however, young people interviewed did not belong to the ‘at-risk’ category, and therefore not much can be said about this youth segment.

people’s interest: the UNICEF-supported Youth Parliament and the National Youth Council (NYC). However, the former is made up of children between the ages of 13 and 17; and the latter appears to have limited resources and reach. Local associations exist in the districts, but their role is small and their level of organization very limited.

Indicator Analysis

INDICATOR G1

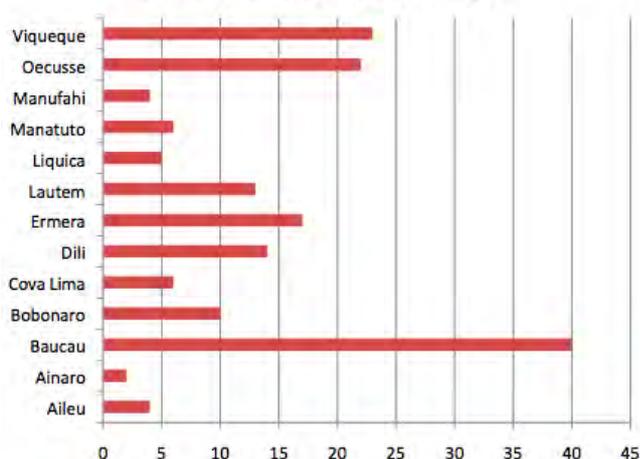
<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Number of East Timorese youth in targeted communities who have demonstrated the use of non-adversarial approaches and cooperative solutions	Not Available

The measurement of this indicator was not possible at the baseline stage. Nevertheless, data from reports and studies are helpful in giving a general idea of the scope of the problem. Additionally, information collected during the baseline provides some indication of the attitudes of young people towards conflict and conflict resolution.

The World Bank’s *Timor-Leste’s Youth in Crisis* report provides a detailed description of young people’s attitudes towards violence; it concludes that although youth violence in the country is for the most part “opportunistic and the result of impunity”⁶, political actors have shown to be able to capitalize “on youth grievances and vulnerability for strategic purposes.”⁷

The risks associated with this kind of manipulation are extremely high, as seen during the 2006 crisis, but also during the parliamentary elections of 2007, which resulted in “two deaths, nearly 100 injuries, the displacement of at least 7,000 families, and 62 reported incidents of destruction of personal property, including houses and vehicles.”⁸ Table 3⁹ shows the number and

Table 3: Number of Violent Incidents by District, 2007 Elections



⁶ *Timor-Leste’s Youth in Crisis: Situational Analysis and Policy Options* (World Bank, Sep 2007), page 17.

⁷ *Idem*, page 15.

⁸ *Electoral Violence in Timor-Leste*, Issue Brief 3/2009 (TLAVA, Jun 2009), Page3.

⁹ *Idem*, page 4.

distribution of violent incidents during that time, also highlighting differences in the potential for violence among Timor-Leste's districts.

Information collected during the baseline suggests a low level of awareness among young people regarding the role they play in communities. This is in spite of their exposure to peacebuilding and reconciliation activities, which, although unquantifiable, can be deemed significant; many of them mentioned participating in workshops on subjects such as peace and reconciliation, governance and human rights. Most young people interviewed during the baseline were aware of instances of conflict in their communities, but they did not see these as political, but rather interpersonal. The role of martial arts groups (MAGs) was mentioned as problematic, but only in urban areas (Baucau and Dili).

INDICATOR G2

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Number of people from 'at-risk groups' reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities	0

Since the project has yet to start, the number of people from 'at-risk groups' reached through project-related activities is zero.

INDICATOR A1

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage of interviewed youth who report listening to the radio magazine or talk show	5.2%

The percentage refers to the average reach of selected community radio stations (see indicator C1).¹⁰ Although it does not distinguish between different age groups, the figure can be viewed as a 'good enough' estimate for the reach of CRs among young people aged between 15 to 24 years.¹¹

Group discussions indeed revealed that young people do listen to community radio stations, although not very often or regularly. This seems to be related to two obstacles: first the lack of access to radios. Radio ownership in Timor-Leste is not high, especially in rural areas.¹² Secondly, signal reception in many parts of the country is poor, especially among community radio stations and in rural areas.

Some of the people interviewed mentioned the format and quality of radio programs as factors determining listenership choices. For example, it is clear

¹⁰ The source of the data is the *Timor-Leste National Media Survey* (Hirondelle Foundation, May 2007).

¹¹ Of all respondents to the 2007 *Media Survey*, 22.7% were aged between 15 and 24 years.

¹² *Timor-Leste National Media Survey* (Hirondelle Foundation, May 2007), page 21.

that among young people, programs that allow for feedback (such as text messaging) are much preferred; even community leaders seemed to better recall radio programs that included people’s voices (like *vox populi*).

INDICATOR A2

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Number and type of issues explored by youth during the radio shows with key actions taken (Qualitative)	0

Since the project has yet to start, the number of issues explored and discussed by youth as a result of project-related activities is zero.

INDICATOR A3

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage increase in number of Timorese youth who report that they are able to participate meaningfully to the country’s peace and reconciliation processes	0%

Since the project activities have yet to start, the percentage increase in the number of young people who report being able to participate in peace and reconciliation efforts is zero.

Overall, young people interviewed during the baseline expressed a very low awareness of peace and reconciliation processes, national or otherwise. Some have participated to relevant workshops, or mentioned hearing radio programs about peace; these recollections, however, were generally vague, and referred to previous years. None of the people interviewed mentioned participating to such events in the last three to six months.

INDICATOR A4

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage increase in number of young people who demonstrate being actively involved in the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts locally (including the breakdown of negative stereotypes).	0%

Since the project activities have yet to start, the percentage increase in the number of youth who demonstrate to be involved in conflict prevention and resolution is zero.

Furthermore, the group discussions with young people suggest that the overall number of youth presently involved in the prevention and resolution of conflict—whether locally or nationally—is very low. This is consistent with respondents’ low awareness of peacebuilding and reconciliation, as well as the perceptions they have about what role they can play in these

processes. Young people do participate in community life; however, their participation seems to be confined to sports and/or music events that are not explicitly tied to any peacebuilding initiative.

INDICATOR B1

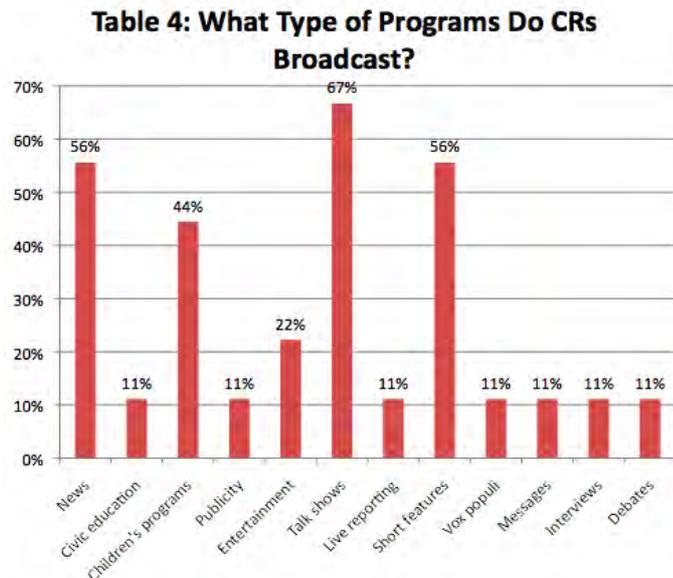
<i>Description</i>
Percentage of trained community radio stations that broadcast “Common Ground” programs

<i>State at Baseline</i>
0%

Since the project activities have yet to start, the percentage of trained community radio stations that broadcast “Common Ground” programs is zero.

However, it is important to note that 67% of CRs indicated broadcasting programs with a talk show format, as Table 4 shows. Debates, interviews and *vox populi* are also broadcast by 11% of responding CRs.

While none of these formats are exactly like the programs to be produced and broadcast as part of the RFP-TL project, they share some elements in common with the “Common Ground” methodology. This suggests that some level of awareness about interactive shows (like talk shows or debates) already exists among CR personnel.



INDICATOR B2

<i>Description</i>
Number of Timorese CSOs engaged in media and community reconciliation programming

<i>State at Baseline</i>
Not Available

The baseline could not provide a sufficiently reliable figure for this indicator. Nevertheless, the questionnaires compiled by personnel from community radios show that 56% of them are currently engaged in some level of collaboration with locally based entities, mainly Suco Councils and local associations.

Information obtained during interviews with both local government representatives and radio personnel suggests, however, that collaboration at

the local level is very uneven and largely dependent on external resources and agencies.

INDICATOR B3

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Number of non-governmental constituencies built or strengthened in with USG assistance	0

As the project has yet to start, the number of non-governmental constituencies built or strengthened as a result of project-related activities is zero.

INDICATOR B4

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Number and type of cases of how civil society and media organizations across Timor have used RFP resources to advance peace and reconciliation (Qualitative)	0

Since activities have yet to start, the number of cases of how Timorese civil society and media organizations have used RFP resources developed in the context of the present project is zero.

INDICATOR B5

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage increase in number of radio programs broadcast by community and national media organizations that focus on peace and reconciliation.	0%

Since the project activities have yet to start, the percentage increase in the number of programs broadcast by media organizations that focus explicitly on peace and reconciliation is zero.

Community radio stations do, however, broadcast a number of programs that are relevant to peace and reconciliation, as Table 1 shows. According to the table, 11% of community radio stations currently have programs focusing on government, violence and civic education. Some CR personnel have also mentioned broadcasting peace and reconciliation-specific programs in the past, but not at the time of the baseline.

INDICATOR C1

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage of population that listens regularly to the radio magazine and radio drama	5.2%

The figure refers to the average reach of selected community radio stations, as to the table below.¹³

Radio Station	District/City	Reach				
		Weekly Reach	Within Last 4 Weeks	Within Last Year	Longer Ago	TOTAL Reach
Ili Wai	Manatuto	0.4%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	2.2%
Popular Colelemai	Baucau/ Baucoli	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Matebian	Baucau	2.4%	1.2%	0.7%	0.9%	5.2%
Viqueque	Viqueque	6.5%	0.9%	1.3%	0.2%	8.9%
Cafe	Ermera/ Gleno	0.3%	0.5%	1.0%	1.3%	3.1%
Tokodede	Liquica	1.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.1%	2.8%
Lorico Lian	Dili	3.3%	1.5%	0.9%	0.8%	6.5%
National University Radio	Dili	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Rakambia	Dili	8.9%	3.9%	3.2%	2.0%	18.0%
Atoni Lifau	Oecusse	2.0%	1.0%	1.1%	0.8%	4.9%
Radio Lospalos	Lospalos/ Lautem	2.2%	1.2%	0.9%	0.4%	4.7%
Radio Maliana	Maliana/ Bobonaro	0.6%	0.6%	1.9%	0.7%	3.8%
Radio Ainaro	Ainaro	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.6%	1.6%
Radio Suai	Suai/ Cova Lima	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.6%	1.0%
Average		2.4%	1.0%	1.7%	0.75%	5.2%

Although the information dates back to 2007, the lack of development on the part of community radio stations since then means that the data is still reliable.

An important point to note is the variation in the reach of different CRs – with a minimum of 1.0% (Radio Suai) and a maximum of 18.0% (Radio Rakambia in Dili). This is consistent with the information collected through the questionnaires and visits to different CRs across the country: while some radio stations are well established and enjoy access to considerable resources, others do not. It also appears that the former include CRs in urban

¹³ *Timor-Leste National Media Survey* (Hirondelle Foundation, May 2007), page 33.

areas (for example: Dili, Baucau), while the latter comprise rural ones (e.g. Bucoli, Viqueque).

INDICATOR C2

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage of population that shows an increased understanding of issues of importance to youth	Not Available

The measurement of this indicator was not possible at the baseline stage. Interviews with community leaders (Suco Council members) indicated however that some level of synergy exists between those officials and young people. In particular, both groups of individuals appear to be in agreement about the need to build the capacity of Timor-Leste's youth.

Institutionally, Suco Councils usually include two Youth Representative positions, whose purpose is to liaise with young people and engage them in public life. This also suggests that some level of awareness exists between the community, as represented by Suco Councils, and young people. This level is, however, presently impossible to quantify.¹⁴

INDICATOR C3

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage of population that listens to radio talkback shows	5.2%

See explanation under Indicator C1.

INDICATOR C4

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Number and type of interactions between youth and decision-makers (Qualitative)	0

Since the project activities have yet to start, the number and type of interactions between Timorese youth and decision-makers is zero.

¹⁴ The Asia Foundation has developed a new Suco Council Feedback Instrument with the aim of measuring the performance of Suco Councils in twenty separate measurable areas, including the degree to which they successfully engage with community youth through the youth representative positions. This tool, once available, is likely to provide information relevant to this indicator.

INDICATOR C5

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Number of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups	0

As the activities have yet to start, the number of facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups as a result of the project is zero.

INDICATOR C6

<i>Description</i>	<i>State at Baseline</i>
Percentage increase in number of community members who demonstrate a greater awareness of the role youth can play in peace and reconciliation processes (including breakdown of stereotypes).	0%

Since the project activities have yet to start, the percentage increase in the number of programs broadcast by media organizations that focus explicitly on peace and reconciliation is zero.

V. Recommendations for future M&E Efforts

Based on the baseline process and results, the following recommendations can be made about future Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) efforts:

- *Establish a quarterly data collection cycle* – Information concerning the progress of the RFP-TL project at the outcome level should be collected and compiled every three months. A shorter cycle would be very labor-intensive without adding much value to the analysis; a longer one would risk missing important information about the project’s effectiveness. The collection cycle should include focus group discussions (FGDs) and ‘spot’ surveys.
- *Form a ‘reference’ group of beneficiaries* – In order to avoid the risk of passive group discussions, SFCG should form a ‘reference’ group of beneficiaries: 12-15 participants (gender balanced) whom the organization could call upon quarterly to discuss the radio programs. The participants would remain the same from meeting to meeting. Reference groups could be formed in two locations, one urban and the other rural.
- *Organize smaller and single-gender FGDs* – Regular FGDs should still be conducted as part of the regular data collection cycle. However, in order to ensure the best possible information, the groups should be made smaller, no more than 8 people ideally. It would also be advisable to have

separate FGDs for men and women, as the latter seem hesitant to talk in the presence of the former.

- *Conduct 'spot' surveys* – In order to collect usable quantitative information, it would be important to conduct surveys. These, however, need not be large in scope; a 'spot' survey administered to 200 respondents would already provide meaningful data to gauge the success of the project and in particular its media component.
- *Revisit project indicators at mid-term point* – The baseline has revealed differences in the usefulness and accuracy of current indicators, which is fairly typical in the case of projects taking place in fragile and politically volatile contexts. To increase the value of future monitoring and evaluation efforts—and with a view to maximizing the project's learning potential—it would be sensible to review indicators at the project's mid-term point with the aim of either modifying or abandoning inaccurate ones.

VI. Annexes

- A. Project Indicators Summary Table
- B. Baseline plan
- C. List of meetings held
- D. Community Radio Questionnaire
- E. Other Questionnaires

Annex A – Project Indicators Summary Table

No.	Description	State at Baseline
G1	# of East Timorese youth in targeted communities who have demonstrated the use of non-adversarial approaches and cooperative solutions	Not Available
G2	# of people from ‘at-risk groups’ reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities	0
A1	% of interviewed youth who report listening to the radio magazine or talk show	5.2%
A2	# and type of issues explored by youth during the radio shows with key actions taken	0
A3	% increase of # of Timorese youth who report that they are able to participate meaningfully to the country’s peace and reconciliation processes	0%
A4	% increase in # of young people who demonstrate being actively involved in the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts locally (including the breakdown of negative stereotypes)	0%
B1	% of trained community radio stations that broadcast “Common Ground” programs	0%
B2	# of Timorese CSOs engaged in media and community reconciliation programming	Not Available
B3	# of non-governmental constituencies built or strengthened in with USG assistance	0
B4	# and type of cases of how civil society and media organizations across Timor have used R4PB resources to advanced peace and reconciliation	0
B5	% increase in # of radio programs broadcast by community and national media organizations that focus on peace and reconciliation	0%
C1	% of population that listens regularly to the radio magazine and radio drama	5.2%
C2	% of population that shows an increased understanding of issues of importance to youth	Not Available
C3	% of population that listens to radio talkback shows	5.2%
C4	# and type of interactions between youth and decision-makers	0
C5	# of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups	0
C6	% increase in # of community members who demonstrate a greater awareness of the role youth can play in peace and reconciliation processes (including breakdown of stereotypes)	0%

Annex B – Baseline Plan

Baseline Focus	Indicator	Means of Verification	Data Source/ Target	Location of Data Collection	Conflict considerations	Means of Analysis	Time needed
GOAL: East Timorese Youth deal with conflicts using non-adversarial approaches and cooperative solutions	G1. # of East Timorese youth in targeted communities who have demonstrated the use of non-adversarial approaches and cooperative solutions	Not Available at Baseline					
	G2. # of people from „at-risk groups“ reached through USG-supported conflict mitigation activities	Not Applicable for the Baseline					
Objective A Establish a platform/mechanism for youth to explore issues affecting East Timorese youth, reconciliation, and conflict transformation in a constructive, solutions-oriented way	A1. % of interviewed youth who report listening to the radio magazine or talk show	Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), Desktop research	Young people aged between 15 and 30 years	Dili + 2 other districts	Access to locations and/or respondents might be limited; some security concerns for surveyors	Data compilation and triangulation	7 days
	A2. # and type of issues explored by youth during the radio shows with key actions taken	Since the project activities have yet to start, the number of issues explored and discussed by youth as a result of the present grant is zero.					

Baseline Focus	Indicator	Means of Verification	Data Source/ Target	Location of Data Collection	Conflict considerations	Means of Analysis	Time needed
	A3. % increase of # of Timorese youth who report that they are able to participate meaningfully to the country's peace and reconciliation processes	FGDs	Young people aged between 15 and 30 years	Dili + 2 other districts (1 in the East, 1 in the West)	Access to locations and/or respondents might be limited; some security concerns for surveyors	Data compilation and triangulation	7 days
	A4. % increase in # of young people who demonstrate being actively involved in the prevention and resolution of violent conflicts locally (including the breakdown of negative stereotypes)	FGDs	Young people aged between 15 and 30 years	Dili + 2 other districts (1 in the East, 1 in the West)	Access to locations and/or respondents might be limited; some security concerns for surveyors	Data compilation and triangulation	7 days
Objective B Enhance the capacity and sustainability of East Timorese civil society (particularly media) to play a more active role in reconciliation and peacebuilding processes.	B1. % of trained community radio stations that broadcast "Common Ground" programs	Questionnaires	15 community radio stations	13 districts	Some community radio personnel might be more easily reached in Dili than on location.	Data compilation, triangulation with desk review and interviews	7 days
	B2. # of Timorese CSOs engaged in media and community reconciliation programming	Not Available at Baseline					

Baseline Focus	Indicator	Means of Verification	Data Source/ Target	Location of Data Collection	Conflict considerations	Means of Analysis	Time needed
	B3. # of non-governmental constituencies built or strengthened in with USG assistance	As the project activities have yet to start, the number of non-governmental constituencies built or strengthened as part of the present grant is zero.					
	B4. # and type of cases of how civil society and media organizations across Timor have used R4PB resources to advanced peace and reconciliation	Not Applicable for the Baseline					
	B5. % increase in # of radio programs broadcast by community and national media organizations that focus on peace and reconciliation	Questionnaires	15 community radio stations	13 districts		Data compilation, triangulation with desk review and interviews	7 days
Objective C Increase East Timorese understanding of	C1.% of population that listens regularly to the radio magazine and radio drama	Not Applicable for the Baseline					

Baseline Focus	Indicator	Means of Verification	Data Source/ Target	Location of Data Collection	Conflict considerations	Means of Analysis	Time needed
youth issues in order to bolster mechanisms that foster greater collaboration between youth, their communities, and other relevant stakeholders	C2. % of population that shows an increased understanding of issues of importance to youth	FGDs	Community Leaders	Dili + 2 other districts (1 in the East, 1 in the West)	Access to locations and/or respondents might be limited; some security concerns for FGDs facilitator	Data compilation and triangulation	3 days (depending on # of FGDs)
	C3. % of population that listens to radio talkback shows	Desk review	Reports/Studies by other agencies	NA	None	Cross-referencing (information may be triangulated with survey results)	10 days
	C4. # and type of interactions between youth and decision-makers	FGDs	Young people aged between 15 and 30 years	Dili + 2 other districts (1 in the East, 1 in the West)	Access to locations and/or respondents might be limited; some security concerns for surveyors and FGDs facilitators	Data compilation and statistical disaggregation Triangulation	7 days
	C5. # of USG-assisted facilitated events geared toward strengthening understanding and mitigating conflict between groups	Not Applicable for the Baseline					

Baseline Focus	Indicator	Means of Verification	Data Source/ Target	Location of Data Collection	Conflict considerations	Means of Analysis	Time needed
	C6. % increase in # of community members who demonstrate a greater awareness of the role youth can play in peace and reconciliation processes (including breakdown of stereotypes)	Not Applicable for the Baseline					

Annex C – List of Meetings Held

Participant(s)	Agency	Date	Location
Luis Ximenes and Marilia O. da Costa	BELUN	05/19/2010	Dili
Charles Rice	ICFJ	05/19/2010	Dili
Suco Council (SC) President	SC Manatuto	05/24/2010	Manatuto (Baucau)
SC Youth Representative	SC Manatuto	05/24/2010	Manatuto (Baucau)
Director of Programs	Radio Ili Wai	05/24/2010	Manatuto
Station Manager	Radio Colelemai	05/24/2010	Bucoli (Baucau)
Young People (6)	N/A	05/25/2010	Baucau
Director of Programs	Radio Cafe	05/25/2010	Gleno (Ermera)
Director of Programs	Radio Matebian	05/25/2010	Baucau
Young Journalists (3)	Radio Cafe	05/25/2010	Gleno (Ermera)
SC President	SC Gleno	05/25/2010	Gleno (Ermera)
SC Members (5)	SC Caisido	05/25/2010	Caisido (Baucau)
Young People (14)	N/A	05/26/2010	Viqueque
SC Member	SC Uma Ki'k	05/26/2010	Uma Ki'k (Viqueque)
SC Member	SC Carabalo	05/26/2010	Carabalo (Viqueque)
Technician	Radio Viqueque	05/26/2010	Viqueque
Director of Programs	Radio Liquica	05/26/2010	Liquica
Station Manager	Radio Lorico Lian	06/02/2010	Dili
Program Manager	National University Radio	06/02/2010	Dili
Station Manager	Radio Rakambia	06/02/2010	Dili
Young People (16)	N/A	06/03/2010	Dili

Annex D – Community Radio Questionnaires

General:

1. Name of Radio Station:
2. Location (Town/District):

Capacity:

3. How many people work for the radio station? _____
 4. How many hours of broadcast do you do per day? _____
 5. Do you produce your own programs? YES or NO
 - a. If YES, how many? _____
 - b. If YES, what kind? (Talk shows, news, reportage)
-

6. Do you receive program from other agencies? YES or NO
 - a. If YES, from whom?
-

7. Have you participated to training events in the past? YES or NO
 - a. If YES, on what topic?
-

Content:

8. What are the subjects/topics discussed during your programs?
-
-

9. Do you have mechanisms to collect feedback from listeners/community members? YES or NO
 - a. If YES, what kind?

10. Do you work with any other CSOs/NGOs/Associations outside of the radio programs? YES or NO
 - a. If YES, with whom?
-

11. Are you familiar with conflict management and resolution? YES or NO
 - a. If YES, how have you become familiar?

Annex E – Baseline Questions

For Community Leaders:

Radio Listening Habits (Indicator C3)

1. Have you listened to the radio yesterday?
2. Have you listened to the radio last week?
3. What radio station do you listen to?
4. What kind of radio programs do you listen to?

Attitudes and Knowledge (Indicator C2)

1. What role do you think young people have been playing in society to date?
2. What are in your opinion the issues that are currently most important to young people? (Cross-reference with Question 5 for Young People)
3. What do you think young people need the most?
4. How do you interact with young people? Are there mechanisms for young people to provide input to the decisions made by the organization/institution you represent?
5. Have you had any such discussions with young people about peace and reconciliation in the past 1-to-3 months?

For Community Radio Station Personnel:

Capacity

1. How many people work for the radio station?
2. How many hours of broadcast do you do per day?
3. Do you produce your own programs? (YES or NO)
4. If yes, how many and what kind?
5. From what agencies do you receive programs?
6. Do you receive any kind of financial support? If yes, from whom?

Content (Indicator B1 and B5)

7. Have you participated to training events in the past? If so, about what?
8. What are the subjects/topics discussed during your programs?
9. Do you work with any other CSOs/NGOs/Associations outside of the radio programs?
10. Are you familiar with standards of objective journalism and conflict-sensitive reporting? What about conflict management and resolution?

Role in the Community

11. Do you organize listening clubs? How many?
12. How often do you interact with community members?
13. How often do you interact with young people?

For Young People:

Radio Listening Habits (Indicator A1)

1. Have you listened to the radio yesterday?
2. Have you listened to the radio last week?
3. What radio station do you listen to?
4. What kind of radio programs do you listen to?

5. What are the issues that are currently most important to you? In other words, what issues would you like to be able to discuss and influence?
(Cross-reference with Question 2 for Community Members)

Participation to peace and reconciliation (A3)

6. Are you aware of peace and reconciliation processes?
7. If yes, how have you been made aware? (Radio or other media, agency/institution, individual)
8. Have you participated in any peace- and/or reconciliation related event in the past month?
9. If yes, where and when? What were your impressions of the event?
10. Have you interacted with any government representative or community leader in the last 6 months to a year? (Indicator C4)

Conflict Prevention and Resolution (A4 and G1)

11. Do you witness many conflicts in your community/neighborhood? If yes, what kind?
12. What is your reaction to those conflicts?